

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 TRSE-00 LAB-04

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OMB-01 CIEP-01 /060 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:RHOLMES: EB/OT/GCP:DTMORRIS

APPROVED BY EB/OT/GCP:DJDUNFORD

AGRICULTURE:RHARPER

TREASURY:AGAULT

LABOR:BWHITE

COMMERCE:CSIEGEL

STR:SLANDE (SUBS)

EA/EP:AGEBER

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P R 112308Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, HK

SUBJECT: GSP AND HONG KONG

REF: STATE 68558 (B) HONG KONG 3578

1. CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS HAVE
REVEALED SENSITIVITY TO ANY EFFORT TO MOVE NOW TO
DESIGNATE HONG KONG AS A GSP BENEFICIARY. THIS HAS LED
TO INTERAGENCY CONSENSUS THAT HONG KONG SHOULD BE DEALT
WITH WHEN OTHER COUNTRIES WHOSE ELIGIBILITY IS NOW UNDER
REVIEW ARE READY TO BE MOVED TO LIST OF DESIGNATED
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BENEFICIARIES. CURRENT EXPECTATION IS THAT ITC PRODUCT

REVIEW WILL BE COMPLETED IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER AND THAT GSP WILL BE IMPLEMENTED NO EARLIER THAN NOVEMBER 1, 1975. TIMING OF WHEN OTHER COUNTRIES ON "LIST B" MIGHT BE MOVED REMAINS DEPENDENT UPON LEGISLATION (IN CASE OF OPEC COUNTRIES) AND ON NUMBER OF OTHER UNCERTAIN FACTORS. OUR CURRENT OBJECTIVE IS TO HAVE REMAINING ISSUES RE COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY (INCLUDING HONG KONG'S STATUS) RESOLVED PRIOR TO GSP IMPLEMENTATION.

2. INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED TO SEEK ELIMINATION OF ALL REMAINING PREFERENCES WHICH HONG KONG

ACCORDS TO DEVELOPED COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES. BRITISH EMBASSY (HERMANN) HAS BEEN SO INFORMED. HERMANN WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT TIMING OF NOTIFICATION AND DESIGNATION OF HONG KONG, BARRING UNFORESEEN CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION, WILL DEPEND UPON TIMING OF MOVEMENT OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHOSE ELIGIBILITY REMAINS UNDER CONSIDERATION. SINCE TIMING WITH RESPECT TO LATTER IS UNCERTAIN, WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO HERMANN THAT COMMONWEALTH PREFERENCES ISSUE BE RESOLVED SOON TO AVOID IT BECOMING LATER CAUSE FOR DELAY. KISSINGER

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